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1776. UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL COMMISSION, 1876.

International Exhibition,

PHILADELPHIA.

ART G[illegible]ERY.

THE principal buildings in which the International Exhibition of 1876 will be held are the MAIN BUILDING, the ART GALLERY, the MACHINERY HALL, the AGRICULTURAL and the HORTICULTURAL HALLS. In the aggregate they cover a floor space of about 40 acres.

The ART GALLERY is located on a line parallel with and northward of the Main Exhibition Building

It is on the most commanding portion of great LANSDOWNE PLATEAU and looks southward over the city.

It is elevated on a terrace six feet above the general level of the plateau—the plateau itself being an eminence 116 feet above the surface of the Schuylkill River.

The entire structure is in the modern Renaissance. The materials are granite, glass, and iron. No wood is used in the construction, and the building is thoroughly fireproof. The structure is 365 feet in length, 210 feet in width, and 59 feet in height over a spacious basement 12 feet in height, surmounted by a dome.

DETAILS.

EXTERIOR—1. THE MAIN FRONT.—The Main front looks southward; it displays three distinctive features:

First. A main entrance in the centre of the structure consisting of three colossal arched doorways of equal dimensions.

Second. A pavilion at each end.

Third. Two arcades connecting the pavilions with the centre; Central Section: 95 feet long, 72 feet high; Pavilions; 45 feet long, 60 feet high; Arcades, each, 90 feet long, 40 feet high.

The front, or south face of the Central Section displays a rise of thirteen steps to the entrance 70 feet wide. The entrance is by three arched doorways, each 40 feet high and 15 feet wide, opening into a hall. Between the arches of the doorways are clusters of columns terminating in emblematic designs illustrative of science and art.

The doors, which are of iron, are relieved by bronze panels, having the coats-of-arms of all the States and Territories.

In the centre of the main frieze is the United States coat-of-arms.

The main cornice is surmounted by a balustrade with candelabras. At either end is an allegorical figure representing science and art.

The dome rises from the centre of the structure to the height of 150 feet from the ground. It is of glass and iron and of a unique design: it terminates in a colossal bell—from which the figure of Columbia rises with protecting hands.

A figure of colossal size stands at each corner of the base of the dome. These figures typify the four quarters of the globe.

Each pavilion displays a window 30 feet high and 12 feet wide: it is also ornamented with tile work, wreaths of oak and laurel, 13 stars in the frieze, and a colossal eagle at each of its four corners.

The arcades, a general feature in the old Roman villas but entirely novel here, are intended to screen the long walls of the gallery.

These each consist of five groined arches—these arcades form promenades looking outward over the grounds and inward over open gardens, which extend back to the main wall of the building These garden plats are each 90 feet long and 36 feet deep, ornamented in the centre with fountains and designed for the display of statuary. A stairway from the gardens reaches the upper line of these arcades, forming a second promenade 35 feet above the ground. Its balustrade is ornamented with vases, and is designed ultimately for statues. The cornices, the atticas, and the crestings throughout are highly ornamented.

The walls of the east and west sides of the structure display the pavilions and the walls of the picture galleries, and are relieved by five niches designed for statues, the frieze is richly ornamented—above it the central dome shows to great advantage.

The rear or north front is of the same general character as the main front, but in place of the arcade is a series of arched windows twelve in number, with an entrance in the centre; in all thirteen openings above, in an unbroken line, extending the entire length of the structure; between the pavilions is the grand balcony—a promenade 275 feet long and 45 feet wide, and elevated 40 feet above the ground, overlooking northward the whole panorama of the Park grounds.

The main entrance opens on a hall 82 feet long, 60 feet wide, and 53 feet high, decorated in the modern renaissance style; on the farther side of this hall, three doorways, each 16 feet wide and 25 feet high, open into the centre hall: this hall is 83 feet square, the ceiling of the dome rising over it 80 feet in height.

From its east and west sides extend the galleries, each 98 feet long, 48 feet wide, and 35 feet in height. These galleries admit of temporary divisions for the more advantageous display of paintings. The centre hall and galleries form one grand hall 287 feet long and 85 feet wide, capable of holding eight thousand persons, nearly twice the dimensions of the largest hall in the country. From the two galleries, doorways open into two smaller galleries, 28 feet wide and 89 feet long. These open north and south into private apartments which connect with the pavilion rooms, forming two side galleries 210 feet long. Along the whole length of the north side of the main galleries and central hall extends a corridor 14 feet wide, which opens on its north line into a series of private rooms, thirteen in number, designed for studios and smaller exhibition rooms.

All the galleries and central hall are lighted from above; the pavilions and studios are lighted from the sides. The pavilions and central hall are designed especially for exhibitions of sculpture.

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